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**Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples**

# Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly

**Note by the Secretary-General**

## I. Introduction

1. The attention of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is drawn to the resolutions and decision adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, as listed in sections II to IV below, that are relevant to the work of the Special Committee in 2018.

## II. General resolutions on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

2. The Special Committee was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961. The Special Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress of the implementation of the Declaration.

3. By its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations.

4. At the same session, and at subsequent sessions, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[1] adopted a resolution by which it renewed the mandate of the Special Committee.

[1] See the reports of the Special Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth to seventy-second sessions, the most recent of which is document A/72/23.

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5. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly, on the basis of a recommendation of the Special Committee, adopted resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980, the annex to which contained the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

6. At its forty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, by which it declared the period 1990–2000 the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

7. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, adopted as a plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and A/46/634/Corr.1). The plan stated that the Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:

(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration;

(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

8. In addition, the Special Committee was to continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of the administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories and, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies.

9. At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, in which it declared the period 2001–2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action, as contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and A/46/634/Corr.1), updated where necessary, to serve as the plan of action for the Second International Decade. The updated plan of action is contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Decade (A/56/61).

10. At its sixty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 65/119 of 10 December 2010, in which it declared the period 2011–2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and called upon Member States to intensify their efforts to continue to implement the plan of action for the Second International Decade (A/56/61, annex) and to cooperate with the Special Committee in updating it as necessary, with a view to using it as the basis for a plan of action for the Third International Decade.

11. At its seventy-second session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee (A/72/23), adopted resolution 72/111 of

7 December 2017, in which it approved the report covering the Special Committee's work in 2017, including the programme of work envisaged for 2018, and requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration, and in particular:

(a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to recommend to the General Assembly, as appropriate, the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(d) To develop and finalize, as soon as possible and in cooperation with the administering Power and the Territory in question, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(e) To continue to dispatch visiting and special missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(g) To take all steps necessary to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(h) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

12. In the same resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the United Nations visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, where applicable, were an effective means of ascertaining the situation of the peoples of the Territories, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions on specific Territories, and therefore requested the Special Committee to undertake at least one visiting mission a year.

13. As at 1 January 2018, the Special Committee will be composed of the following 29 members: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

# III. Resolutions and decision concerning specific items considered by the Special Committee in 2017

14. In addition to resolution 72/111, the General Assembly adopted 20 other resolutions and one decision relating to specific items considered by the Special Committee in 2017, which are listed below. Members may wish to take them into account in finalizing the Special Committee's programme of work for 2018.

## A. Resolutions and decision concerning specific Territories

### 1. Resolutions

| *Territory* | *Resolution number* | *Date of adoption* |
|---|---|---|
| Falkland Islands (Malvinas) | 58/316* | 1 July 2004 |
| Western Sahara | 72/95 | 7 December 2017 |
| American Samoa | 72/96 | 7 December 2017 |
| Anguilla | 72/97 | 7 December 2017 |
| Bermuda | 72/98 | 7 December 2017 |
| British Virgin Islands | 72/99 | 7 December 2017 |
| Cayman Islands | 72/100 | 7 December 2017 |
| French Polynesia | 72/101 | 7 December 2017 |
| Guam | 72/102 | 7 December 2017 |
| Montserrat | 72/103 | 7 December 2017 |
| New Caledonia | 72/104 | 7 December 2017 |
| Pitcairn | 72/105 | 7 December 2017 |
| Saint Helena | 72/106 | 7 December 2017 |
| Tokelau | 72/107 | 7 December 2017 |
| Turks and Caicos Islands | 72/108 | 7 December 2017 |
| United States Virgin Islands | 72/109 | 7 December 2017 |

* In accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of the annex to the resolution, the item shall remain on the agenda for consideration upon notification by a Member State.

### 2. Decision

| *Territory* | *Decision number* | *Date of adoption* |
|---|---|---|
| Gibraltar | 72/520 | 7 December 2017 |

## B. Resolutions concerning other items

| *Title* | *Resolution number* | *Date of adoption* |
|---|---|---|
| Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations | 72/91 | 7 December 2017 |
| Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories | 72/92 | 7 December 2017 |
| Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations | 72/93 | 7 December 2017 |
| Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories | 72/94 | 7 December 2017 |
| Dissemination of information on decolonization | 72/110 | 7 December 2017 |

# IV. Other resolutions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

15. Other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-second session that are relevant to the work of the Special Committee are listed below.

| *Title* | *Resolution number* | *Date of adoption* |
|---|---|---|
| Questions relating to information | 72/90 A and B | 7 December 2017 |
| Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination | 72/159 | 19 December 2017 |
| The right to development | 72/167 | 19 December 2017 |
| Oceans and the law of the sea | 72/73 | 5 December 2017 |
| Pattern of conferences | 72/19 | 1 December 2017 |

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# Organization of work

**Note by the Chair**

## I. Subsidiary bodies

1. During its previous sessions, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples conducted its work by considering the items before it directly at its plenary meetings. In recent years, the Special Committee has succeeded in keeping the number of its formal meetings to a minimum through increasing reliance on informal consultations, including by the Bureau, for the consideration of some of the issues before it.

2. The Chair recommends that the Special Committee continue to use informal meetings as much as possible. As warranted, the Chair would consult with the Bureau on urgent and/or specific issues relevant to the work of the Committee.

## II. Allocation of items and procedure for consideration

3. Annexed to the present note is a list of pending matters for consideration by the Special Committee in 2018. It includes decisions adopted by the Special Committee, together with an indication of the procedure that the Committee may wish to adopt for each item. In this regard, the Chair would like to draw the particular attention of the Committee to paragraph 8 (d) of General Assembly resolution 72/111, in which the Special Committee was requested to develop and finalize, as soon as possible and in cooperation with the administering Power and the Territory in question, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories.

4. The Special Committee should take into account the resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-second session that are relevant to the work of the Committee, as listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the subject (A/AC.109/2018/L.1). It is also understood that the Committee should be

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guided by General Assembly resolution 65/119, in which Member States were called upon to intensify their efforts to continue to implement the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/56/61, annex) and to cooperate with the Committee in updating it as necessary, with a view to using it as the basis for a plan of action for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

## III. Order of priority for consideration of items

5. The Chair will hold consultations with regard to the order of priority to be given to the consideration of items in plenary meetings and on specific activities envisaged under the plan of action for the Third International Decade.

6. The Special Committee will take up, as appropriate, items with regard to the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable.

7. In the meantime, it is suggested that the Special Committee conduct its substantive work in accordance with the schedule of meetings contained in the annex to the present note.

## IV. Recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

8. In accordance with established practice, it is suggested that the Special Committee continue to formulate its decisions in the same format as those of the General Assembly and to submit them to the Assembly at its seventy-third session. The Special Committee may also wish to recommend that its Rapporteur continue to follow the established format of its annual report and, once completed, submit it directly to the Assembly.

## V. Utilization of conference-servicing resources

9. At its seventy-second session, the General Assembly decided to waive rules 67 and 108 of its rules of procedure in order to permit meetings to be declared open and debates to proceed without the presence of the quorum required under those rules. The Assembly also decided that morning meetings should begin at 10 a.m.

10. As those measures have further enhanced the effective utilization of conference-servicing resources, it is suggested that the Special Committee continue to follow the same procedure. It should be understood that, in accordance with the rules cited, the presence of a majority of the members would continue to be required for any decisions to be taken.

# Annex

## A. Pending matters for consideration by the Special Committee during 2018

| *Question* | *Procedure for consideration* |
|---|---|
| Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolutions 2911 (XXVII) and 72/111, para. 8 (h), and decision 37/421) | As appropriate |
| Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (General Assembly resolution 65/119 and annex to the report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Decade (A/56/61)) | |
| Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and related questions (General Assembly resolution 72/91) | As a separate item |
| Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 72/92) | |
| Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 72/93) | |
| Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 72/94) | |
| Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (General Assembly resolution 58/316, annex, sect. D, para. 4 (b)) | |
| Gibraltar (General Assembly decision 72/520) | |
| Western Sahara (General Assembly resolution 72/95) | |
| American Samoa (General Assembly resolution 72/96) | |
| Anguilla (General Assembly resolution 72/97) | |
| Bermuda (General Assembly resolution 72/98) | |
| British Virgin Islands (General Assembly resolution 72/99) | |
| Cayman Islands (General Assembly resolution 72/100) | |
| French Polynesia (General Assembly resolution 72/101) | |
| Guam (General Assembly resolution 72/102) | |
| Montserrat (General Assembly resolution 72/103) | |
| New Caledonia (General Assembly resolution 72/104) | |

| *Question* | *Procedure for consideration* |
|---|---|
| Pitcairn (General Assembly resolution 72/105) | |
| Saint Helena (General Assembly resolution 72/106) | |
| Tokelau (General Assembly resolution 72/107) | |
| Turks and Caicos Islands (General Assembly resolution 72/108) | |
| United States Virgin Islands (General Assembly resolution 72/109) | |
| Sending visiting missions to Territories (General Assembly resolution 72/111, paras. 8 (e) and 10) | |
| Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 72/111, para. 8 (b)) | To be taken into consideration in the examination of specific Territories |
| Dissemination of information on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 72/110) | As appropriate |
| Special Committee decision concerning Puerto Rico (A/72/23, para. 35) | |
| Holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters | |
| List of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable | |

## B. Tentative programme of work and timetable of the Special Committee

| | |
|---|---|
| Thursday, 22 February (1 meeting) | Organization of work |
| To be determined (1 meeting) | Organization of the forthcoming Pacific regional seminar |
| Monday, 11 June, morning (1 meeting) | Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations |
| | Dissemination of information on decolonization |
| | Question of sending visiting missions to Territories |
| | Question of Gibraltar |
| | Question of Western Sahara |
| Monday, 11 June, afternoon (1 meeting) | Informal consultations |
| Tuesday, 12 June (1 meeting) | Informal consultations |

| | |
|---|---|
| Wednesday, 13 June (1 meeting) | Informal consultations |
| Thursday, 14 June (1 meeting) | Informal consultations |
| Friday, 15 June | *Official holiday* |
| Monday, 18 June (2 meetings) | Special Committee decision of 19 June 2017 concerning Puerto Rico: hearing of petitioners |
| Tuesday, 19 June, morning (1 meeting) | Question of American Samoa |
| | Question of Anguilla |
| | Question of Bermuda |
| | Question of the British Virgin Islands |
| | Question of the Cayman Islands |
| | Question of Guam |
| | Question of Montserrat |
| | Question of Pitcairn |
| | Question of Saint Helena |
| | Question of the Turks and Caicos Islands |
| | Question of the United States Virgin Islands |
| | Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations |
| | Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories |
| | Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples |
| Tuesday, 19 June, afternoon (1 meeting)[a] | Informal consultations |
| Wednesday, 20 June (2 meetings)[a] | Informal consultations |
| Thursday, 21 June (1 meeting) | Question of French Polynesia |
| | Question of New Caledonia |
| | Question of Tokelau |
| | Report of the Pacific regional seminar |

| | |
|---|---|
| Friday, 22 June (2 meetings) | Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)[b]<br><br>Report of the Special Committee: adoption of recommendations |

[a] Interpretation services provided on an as-available basis.
[b] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).